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Letter dated 30 November 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 26 November 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 26 November 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for October 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 October 2004.

2. As at 31 October 2004, the total strength of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) was 7,982, including 446 troops from non-NATO countries. In addition, there were six SFOR personnel posted in Croatia.

3. As mentioned in the September report, SFOR authority was transferred on 5 October from Major General Virgil Packett II (United States of America) to Brigadier General Steven Schook (United States of America) in Sarajevo. On 1 October, NATO headquarters Sarajevo, the Alliance's residual presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, achieved initial operating capability.

4. There was no change in the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

5. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable overall. The Multinational Task Forces and Multinational Specialized Unit conducted a total of 2,534 ground patrols. In Banja Luka, on 21 October, local police informed SFOR that an explosion had taken place in a metal factory in Budzek. A civilian had been killed while trying to disarm an anti-tank missile.

6. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period.

7. SFOR remained engaged with weapons collection, destruction and framework operations.

8. The results of weapons turned in or collected during the reporting period and within the framework of Operation Harvest are as follows: small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers): 431; ammunition less than 20 mm: 81,183 rounds; ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm: 1,367 rounds; ammunition more than 76 mm: 582 rounds; hand grenades: 1,422; mines: 160; explosives: 97,783 kg; other items (mortars and mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, rockets, etc.): 1,163.

9. In order to support the reduction of unserviceable and obsolete Entity Armed Forces ammunition and reduce ammunition quantities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, SFOR has continued to conduct Operation Armadillo II. The total amount of Republika Srpska Army ammunition destroyed remains at 2,674 tons.

10. On 19 October, SFOR conducted an operation in Bileca, Republika Srpska, in support of the Bosnia and Herzegovina State Investigation and Protection Agency. The target of the operation was to apprehend Nedo and Zoran Samadzic who are both indicted by the Sarajevo Cantonal Court for their involvement in organized crime and narcotics trafficking. During the operation, Nedo Samadzic was wounded after he had opened fire on the Multinational Specialized Unit. He was treated on the scene and transported to the Sarajevo University Hospital. His condition was not life-threatening.

11. From 11 October to 6 November, SFOR Tactical Reserve Forces and NATO Operational and Strategic Reserve Forces provided support to the Commander of the Kosovo Force by affording him additional assets and participating in the Operational Rehearsal Determined Commitment 04 in Kosovo. SFOR Tactical Reserve Forces were deployed to Kosovo from 21 to 30 October.

Compliance by the parties

12. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces carried out normal training activities, in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

13. A total 304 training and operation activities (200 Republika Srpska Army and 104 Vojska Federacije and 339 movements (184 Republika Srpska Army and 155 Vojska Federacije) were conducted during the reporting period.

14. A total of 28 weapons and ammunition storage sites (14 Republika Srpska Army and 14 Vojska Federacije) were inspected during October 2004.

October municipal elections

15. On 2 October, local elections were held across Bosnia and Herzegovina. These were the first to be fully funded and organized by Bosnian authorities. The elections took place peacefully and arrangements between the European Union Police Mission and the Liaison Observation Teams worked well. Turnout was low at only 45 per cent of the electorate. The candidates of the national parties (SDA, SDS and HDZ) emerged victorious, except in Banja Luka where the Social Democrats are poised to gain control.

Conclusion

16. As NATO and the European Union continue to work on the transition from SFOR to Operation Althea and the establishment of NATO headquarters Sarajevo, SFOR continued to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the context of Operational Rehearsal Determined Commitment 04, NATO reserve forces integrated seamlessly with SFOR for framework operations and demonstrated their ability to deploy and operate.